



#10 | \$2.99



WOOD
D'ANDA
ELTAEB

STAR WARS



**IN DISGUISE . . .
AND IN DANGER!**

STAR WARS

Flying alone in her X-wing, Princess Leia visits the debris field of Alderaan, where she discovers a derelict ship from the Clone Wars. Aboard the ship, she encounters a fellow Alderaanian—the man who designed the Death Star's superlaser!

On Coruscant, after a dogfight above the city-planet, Han Solo, Chewbacca, and garbage-barge pilot Perla believe they have escaped bounty hunter Boba Fett.

Rebel pilot Prithi's X-wing clings to the hull of the Star Destroyer *Devastator* as her life support dwindles and she waits for Luke Skywalker and Wedge Antilles to complete their undercover mission. Vader's personal spy aboard the ship has been given orders to detain Luke at all costs. Meanwhile, Luke and Wedge have done everything they came to do—except escape . . .

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SPECIAL THANKS TO
JENNIFER HEDDLE, LELAND CHEE,
TROY ALDERS, CAROL ROEDER, JANN MOORHEAD,
AND DAVID ANDERMAN AT LUCAS LICENSING.

Advertising Sales: (503) 905-2237
International Licensing: (503) 905-2377
Comic Shop Locator Service: (888) 266-4226
DarkHorse.com StarWars.com

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THE REBELLION FROM THE BATTLE OF YAVIN TO FIVE YEARS AFTER

Open resistance begins to spread across the galaxy in protest of the Empire's tyranny. Rebel groups unite, and the Galactic Civil War begins. This era starts with the Rebel victory that secured the Death Star plans, and ends a year after the death of the Emperor high over the forest moon of Endor. This is the era in which the events in *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi* take place.

The events in this story take place shortly after the events in *Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope*.

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THE DEVASTATOR.

WE'RE
WAY PAST
RENDEZVOUS.
PRITHI SHOULD
HAVE LEFT
BY NOW.

BUT
WOULD
SHE?


WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

IT'S NOT A
SECRET, YOU
AND HER.

SHE'LL HAVE
FOLLOWED HER
ORDERS, WEDGE.
NO NEED TO
WORRY.

I
ENVY YOU
TWO.

NO, NO. DON'T
MISUNDERSTAND...




MON MOTHMA
MAY HAVE HER
OWN OPINIONS ON
FRATERNIZING WITHIN
THE RANKS, BUT WITH
ALL DUE RESPECT, MON
MOTHMA DOESN'T
FLY COMBAT.

THE STATS ARE
PRETTY SOBERING --
YOU FLY COMBAT, YOUR
LIFE EXPECTANCY DROPS,
AND FAST. IN THIS WAR?
MOST OF US CAN EXPECT
TO LIVE MAYBE SIX
WEEKS.

AND
THEN THERE
ARE BATTLES
LIKE YAVIN...



...WHERE YOU
LOSE **EVERYONE**
YOU KNOW...



...AND
YOU REGRET,
REALLY REGRET,
NOT MAKING A
CONNECTION WHEN
YOU HAD THE
CHANCE.

WEDGE,
WAS THERE
SOMEONE?

YEAH,
THERE
WAS.

AND NOT
A SHIFT GOES
BY WITHOUT **MY**
THINKING ABOUT
HER.



CAN
YOU RAISE
PRITHI ON THE
ENCRYPTED
CHANNEL?

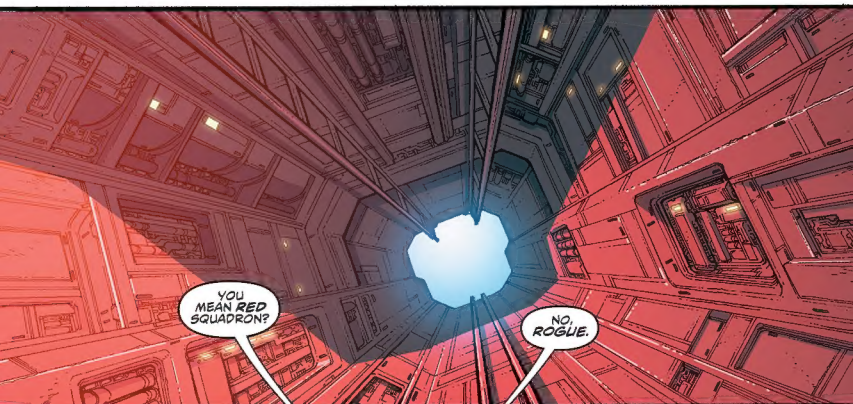
THIS
WHOLE AREA'S
SHIELDED. I JUST
HAVE TO TRUST
HER.

SHE
WON'T LET
YOU DOWN--



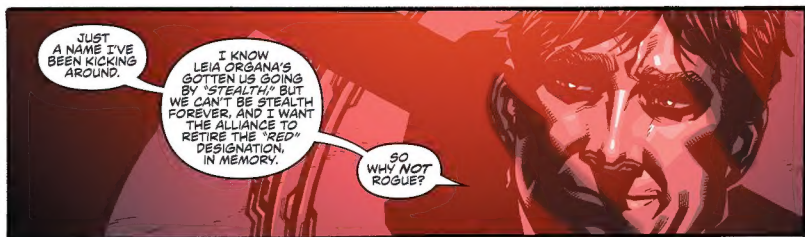
--SHE'S
ROGUE
SQUADRON.

...WHAT?



YOU
MEAN RED
SQUADRON?

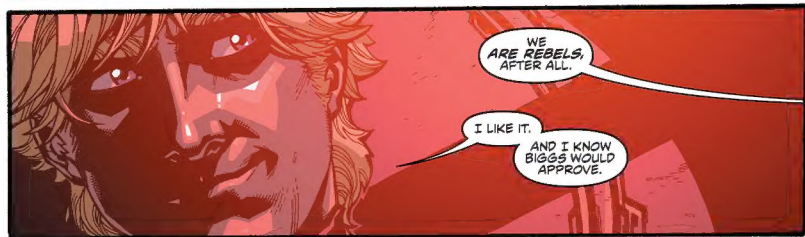
NO,
ROGUE.



JUST
A NAME I'VE
BEEN KICKING
AROUND.

I KNOW
LEIA ORGANA'S
GOTTEN US GOING
BY "STEALTH," BUT
WE CAN'T BE STEALTH
FOREVER. AND I WANT
THE ALLIANCE TO
RETIRE THE "RED"
DESIGNATION,
IN MEMORY.

SO
WHY NOT
ROGUE?



WE
ARE REBELS,
AFTER ALL.

I LIKE IT.

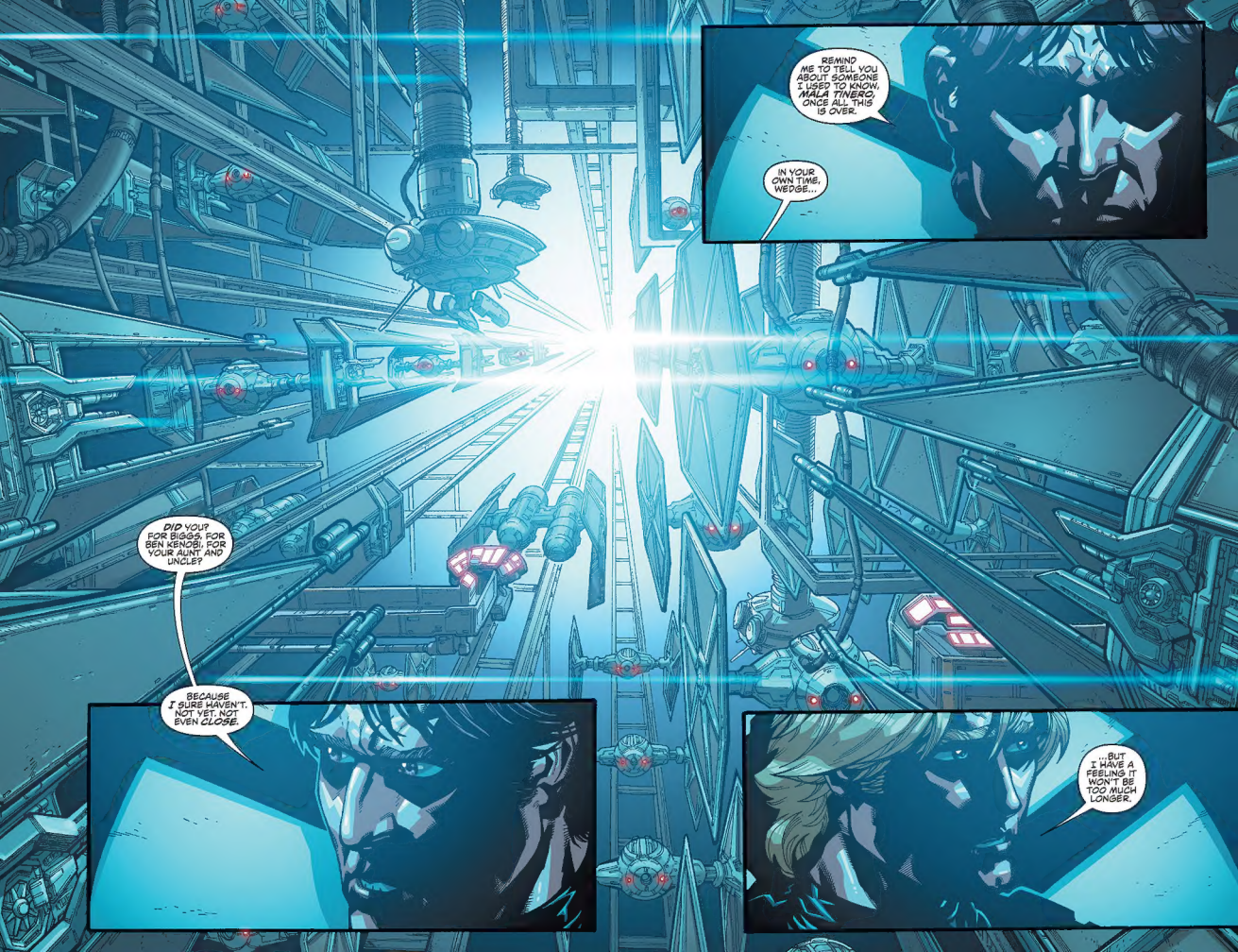
AND I KNOW
BIGGS WOULD
APPROVE.



BIGGS WOULD
PROBABLY HAVE
MY JOB, IF HE WERE
ALIVE. HE WAS TEN
TIMES THE PILOT
I AM.

YAVIN'S
GOING TO
HAUNT US
FOR A LONG
TIME.

AT
LEAST WE
GOT REVENGE
BY DESTROYING
THE DEATH
STAR.



BEHIND
ME TO TELL YOU
ABOUT SOMEONE
I USED TO KNOW.
MALA TINERO.
ONCE ALL THIS
IS OVER.

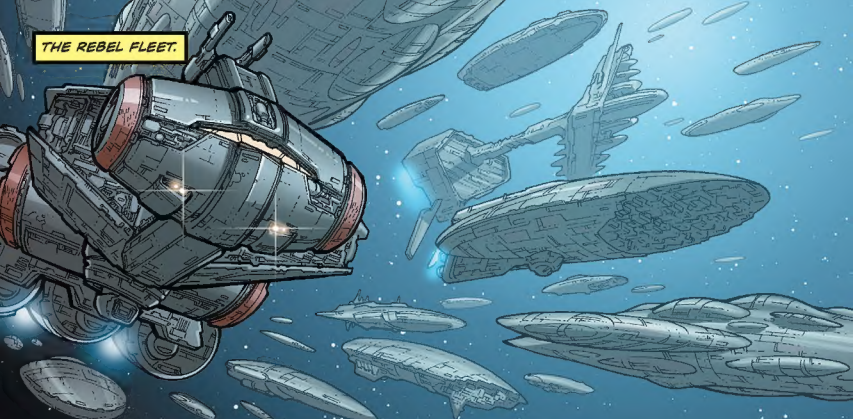
IN YOUR
OWN TIME,
WE'LL SEE.

DID YOU
FOR SIBBS FOR
BEN KENZOB.
FOR YOUR AUNT AND
UNCLE.

BECAUSE
I SURE HAVEN'T.
NOT YET. NOT
EVEN CLOSE.

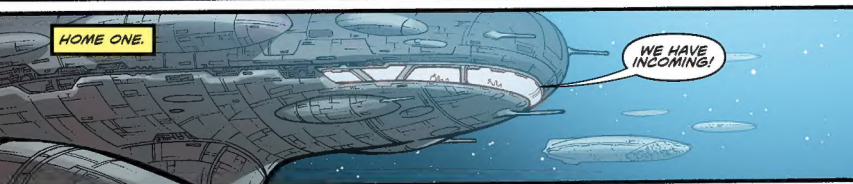
...BUT
I HAVE A
FEELING IT
WON'T BE
TOO MUCH
LONGER.

THE REBEL FLEET.



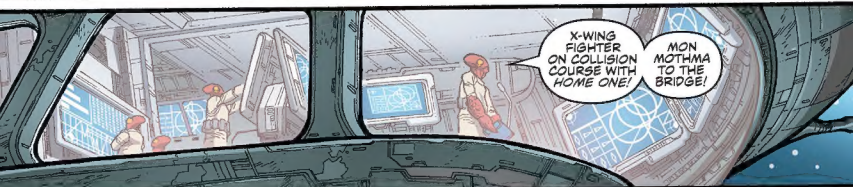
HOME ONE.

WE HAVE INCOMING!



X-WING
FIGHTER
ON COLLISION
COURSE WITH
HOME ONE!

MON
MOTHTMA
TO THE
BRIDGE!



I'M HERE,
OFFICER. NO
RESPONSE?

NEGATIVE,
MA'AM, BUT LOOK AT
THE TRAILER
DESIGNATION...

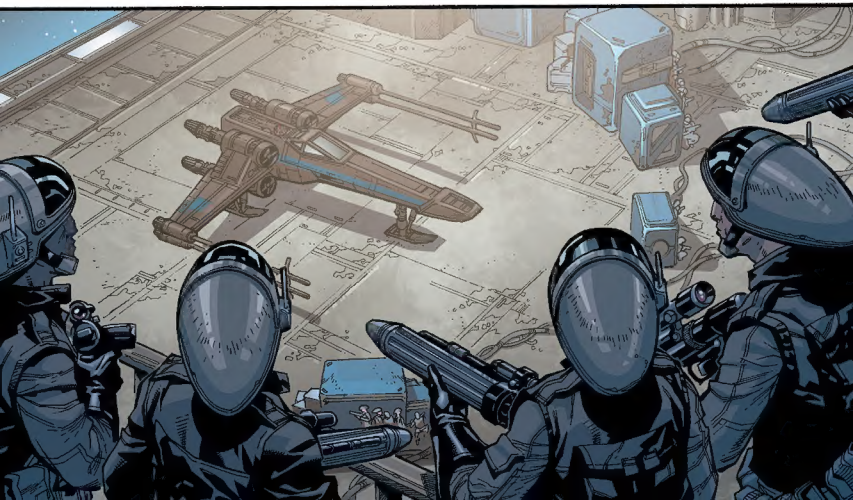
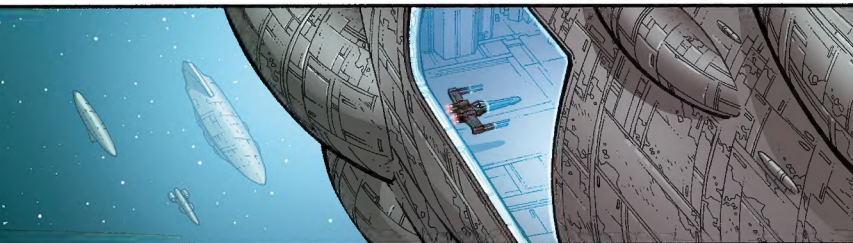
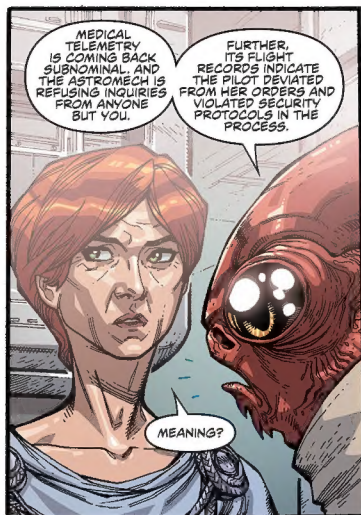
I SEE
IT. I APPRECIATE
YOUR DISCRETION,
BUT I BELIEVE
THE CLASSIFIED NATURE OF
THIS SQUADRON CAN
NOW BE CONSIDERED
NULL. LINK UP TO ITS
ASTROMECH AND
BRING IT IN
SAFELY.

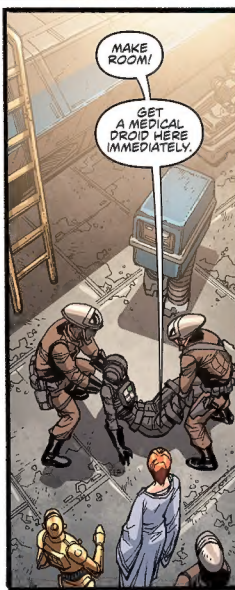
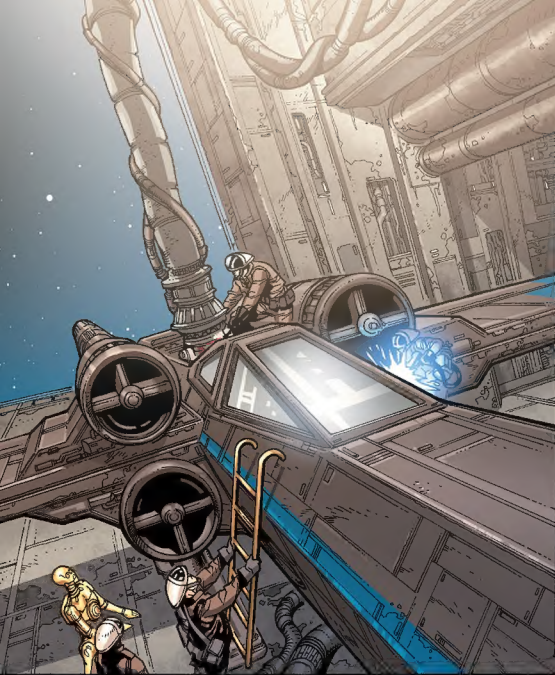


IT'S ONE OF
OURS, PEOPLE, BUT
IT'S NOT ANSWERING
ITS COMMS. I WANT
SECURITY TO LAND
BAY TWO AS A
PRECAUTION.

MA'AM?

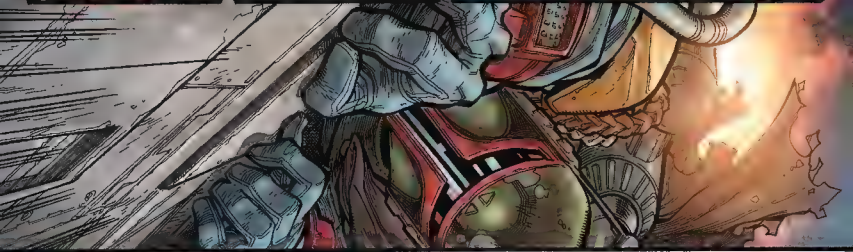
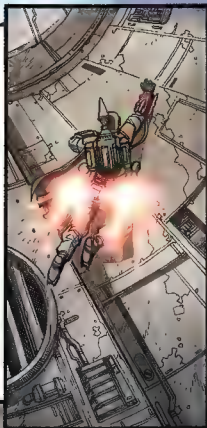
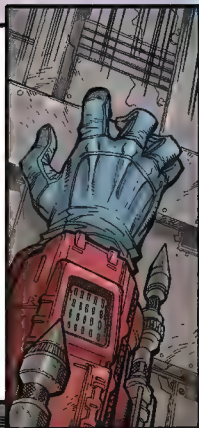
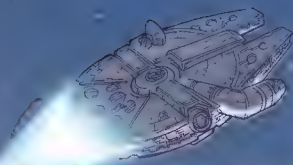






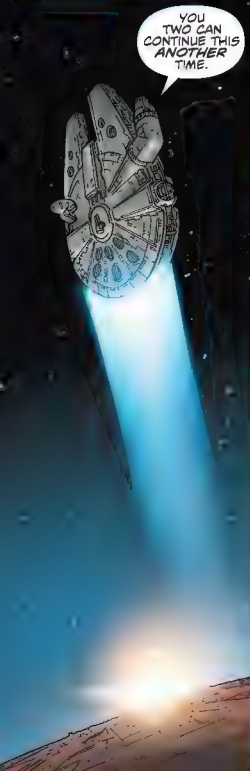
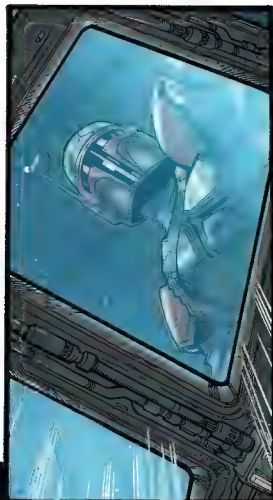


THE SKIES OVER
CORUSCANT.

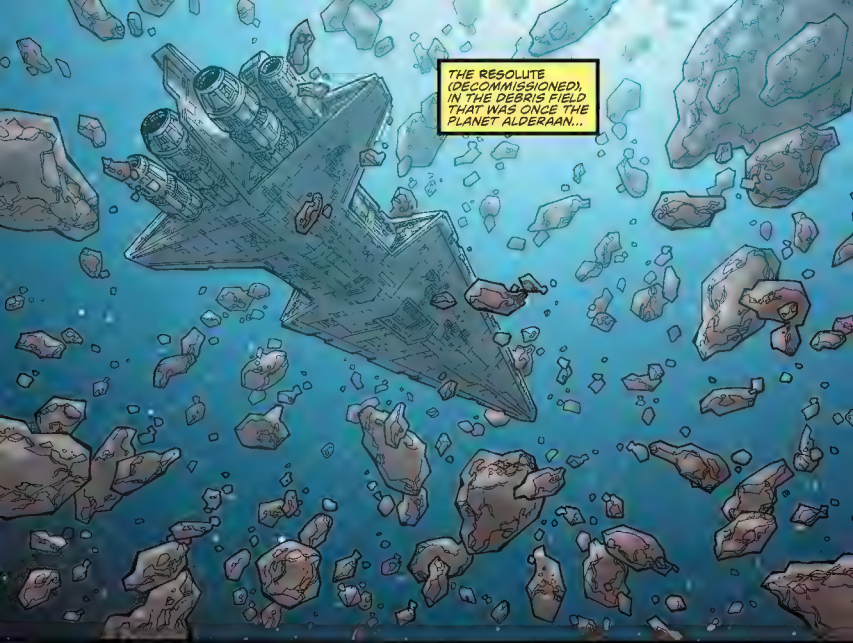


WOOARRRRRAHH!

OKAY,
OKAY...WHAT
DID I DO TO
HIM?







THE RESOLUTE
(DECOMMISSIONED),
IN THE DEBRIS FIELD
THAT WAS ONCE THE
PLANET ALDERAAN...



I AM SO
SORRY.



THOSE WORDS RING HOLLOW; I REALIZE JUST AS I RECOGNIZE THAT MY APOLOGIES ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.

AS IS MY LIFE.



WE ARE ALL VICTIMS OF THE EMPIRE'S AGGRESSION, ITS BRUTALITY.


AND WE ALL SHARE IN THE SADNESS LEFT IN ITS WAKE.



SOME OF US MORE THAN OTHERS.



TRUE.




WHICH
IS WHY BEING
SURROUNDED
BY ALL OF THIS
HURTS SO
MUCH.

AND
WHY I'LL DIE IN
THIS FLOATING
GRAVEYARD...




...BY YOUR
HAND...



...OR
WHEN THE
ROCKS BATTER
THIS SHIP TO
PIECES.

EITHER
WAY...



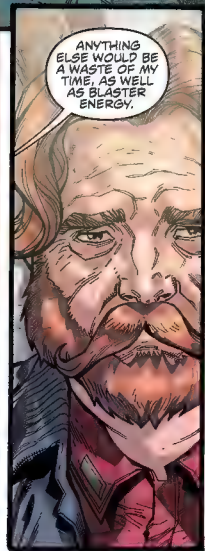
...JUSTICE WILL BE
DONE, BUT WHILE YOU
WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS,
MY DEAR PRINCESS,
LEIA ORGANA...



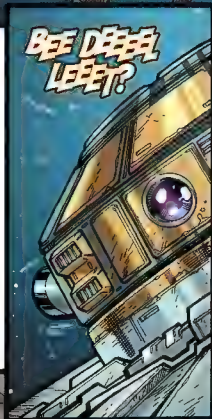
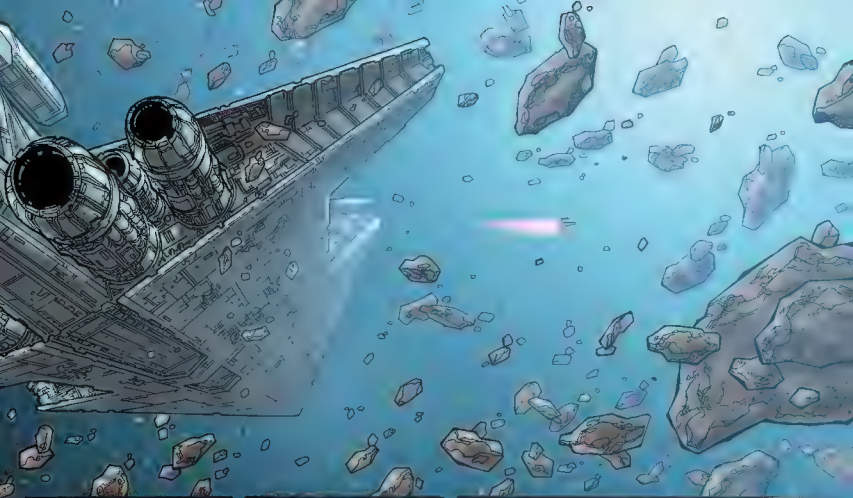
...FINISH
YOUR TEA?



I THINK
I'LL JUST
LEAVE.



ANYTHING
ELSE WOULD BE
A WASTE OF MY
TIME, AS WELL
AS BLASTER
ENERGY.



**BEE DEEEH
LEET?**



NO.
TH...



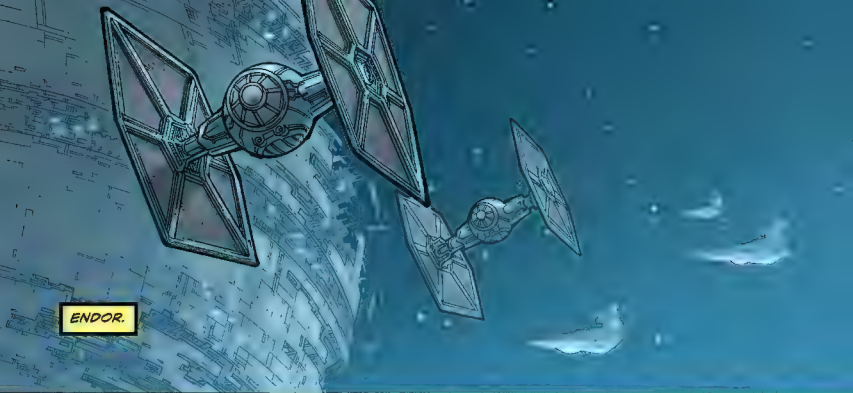
...NOTHING'S
WRONG.

ACTIVATE
THE HOMING
BEACON I LEFT
ABOARD THE
RESOLUTE.

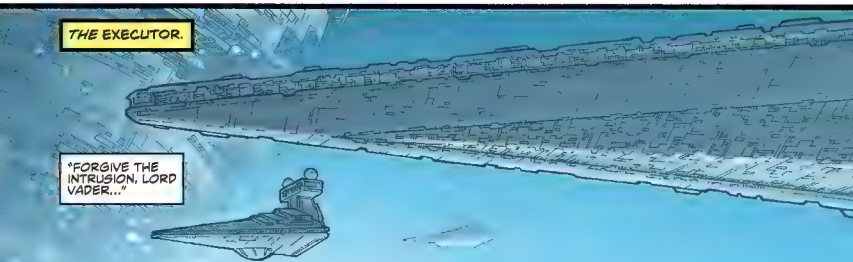
WHEN WE GET
BACK TO THE FLEET,
I'LL HAVE MON MOTHMA
NOTIFY THE SURVIVOR'S
FUND TO COLLECT THE
RESOLUTE, AND THE
GALACTIC WAR CRIMES
TRIBUNAL TO PICK
UP ROGAREN.

NOW
LET'S GO
HOME.



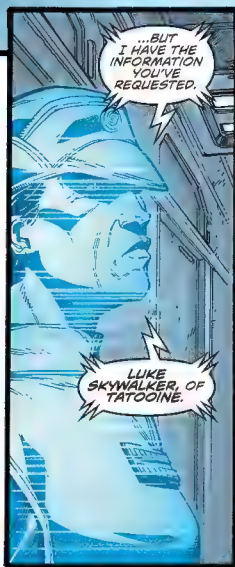


ENDOR.



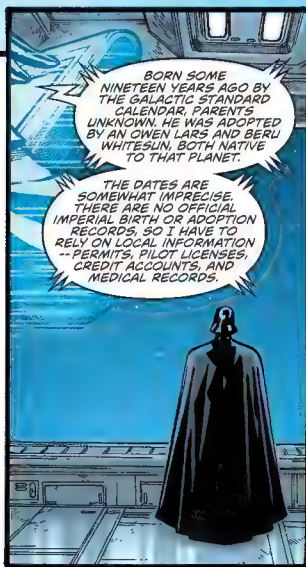
THE EXECUTOR.

"FORGIVE THE
INTRUSION, LORD
VADER..."



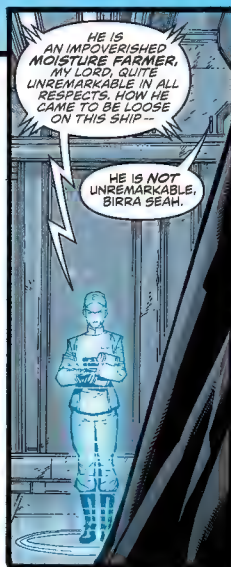
...BUT
I HAVE THE
INFORMATION
YOU'VE
REQUESTED.

LUKE
SKYWALKER, OF
TATOOINE.



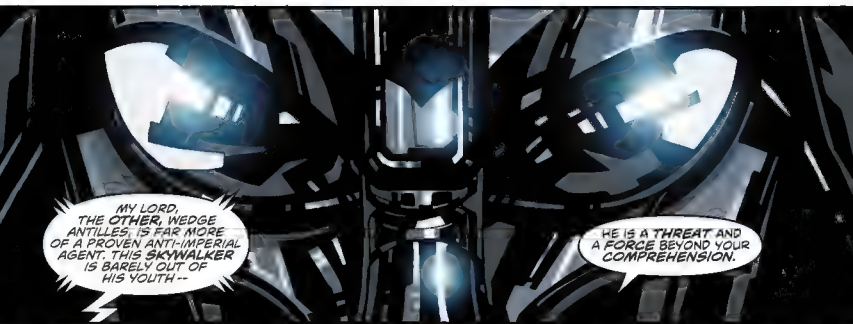
BORN SOME
NINETEEN YEARS AGO BY
THE GALACTIC STANDARD
CALENDAR, PARENTS
UNKNOWN. HE WAS ADOPTED
BY AN OWEN LARS AND BERU
WHITESUN, BOTH NATIVE
TO THAT PLANET.

THE DATES ARE
SOMEWHAT IMPRECISE.
THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL
IMPERIAL BIRTH OR ADOPTION
RECORDS, SO I HAVE TO
RELY ON LOCAL INFORMATION
-- PERMITS, PILOT LICENSES,
CREDIT ACCOUNTS, AND
MEDICAL RECORDS.



HE IS
AN IMPOVERISHED
MOISTURE FARMER,
MY LORD, QUITE
UNREMARKABLE IN ALL
RESPECTS. HOW HE
CAME TO BE LOOSE
ON THIS SHIP --

HE IS NOT
UNREMARKABLE,
BIRRA SEAH.



MY LORD,
THE OTHER, WEDGE
ANTILLES, IS FAR MORE
OF A PROVEN ANTI-IMPERIAL
AGENT. THIS SKYWALKER
IS BARELY OUT OF
HIS YOUTH--

HE IS A THREAT AND
A FORCE BEYOND YOUR
COMPREHENSION.



AH...

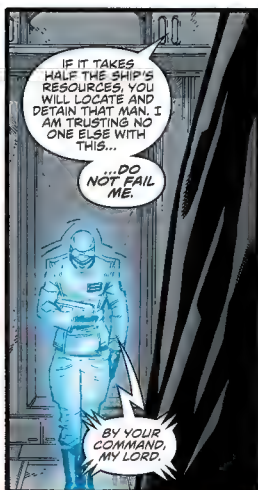
AM I
NOT BEING
CLEAR?

NO,
NO, QUITE
CLEAR, MY
LORD.



BY ALL
MEANS, SEND A
STORMTROOPER TO
PUT A BOLT THROUGH
ANTILLES'S FOREHEAD
AND BE DONE
WITH HIM.

BUT
SKYWALKER?



IF IT TAKES
HALF THE SHIP'S
RESOURCES, YOU
WILL LOCATE AND
DETAIN THAT MAN. I
AM TRUSTING NO
ONE ELSE WITH
THIS...

...DO
NOT FAIL
ME.

BY YOUR
COMMAND,
MY LORD.



THE DEVASTATOR.

WE'RE
COMING OUT OF
LIGHTSPEED NOW,
COMMANDER.

LET ME
SEE IT.

WE'RE
SOME THIRTY
KILOMETERS AWAY, BUT
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH
THEY'VE BEEN ALERTED
TO OUR PRESENCE. THEIR
FLEET IS DISPERSING AND
AN ENERGY BARRIER HAS
BEEN RAISED AROUND
THEIR PRIMARY
SHIP.

I HAD NO IDEA
THEY WERE USING
SUCH ANTIQUATED
VESSELS.

THIS WILL
BE AN EASY
VICTORY.

MIGHT I
REMINDE YOU,
SIR--

OH, YES.
YES...

YAVIN,
BLAH, BLAH,
BLAH.

WE WILL ACCOMPLISH, RIGHT HERE,
WHAT DARTH VADER COULD NOT ON YAVIN.
WE WILL DESTROY THE ALLIANCE ON OUR
OWN TERMS. NO BATTLE STATIONS
OR TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED
WONDER WEAPONS.



GIVE
THE ORDER
TO LAUNCH ALL
TIE SQUADRONS.
ALL WINGS, ALL
RESERVES.

I WILL
PERSONALLY
JOIN THEM.

SIR,
SHOULD WE
NOT COMMENCE
BOMBARDMENT
FROM RANGE?



I AM
AN IMPERIAL
PILOT, YOU
CRETIN.

I AM
A PRECISION
INSTRUMENT, NOT
A BOMB THROWER. BY
ALL MEANS, HIT THEIR
SHIELD GENERATORS
AND ION DRIVES...



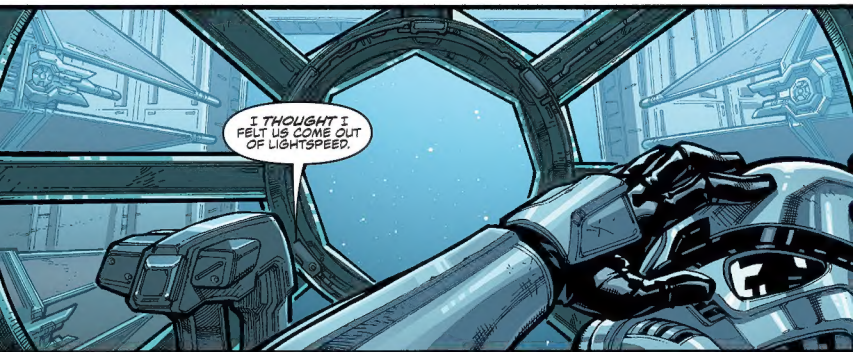
...BUT
LEAVE THE
REAL WORK
TO ME.

YES,
SIR.



I WILL CAPTURE
THIS FLEET FOR THE
GLORY OF THE EMPEROR.
AND SEE THE REBEL TRAITORS
HANGED FOR THEIR CRIMES. IT
WILL BE A VICTORY THAT WILL
RESONATE ACROSS
THE GALAXY.

AND
WE WILL ALL
BASK IN THE
REWARDS.



I THOUGHT I FELT US COME OUT OF LIGHTSPEED.



THIS ENTIRE WING IS BEING SCRAMBLED.

WEDGE!



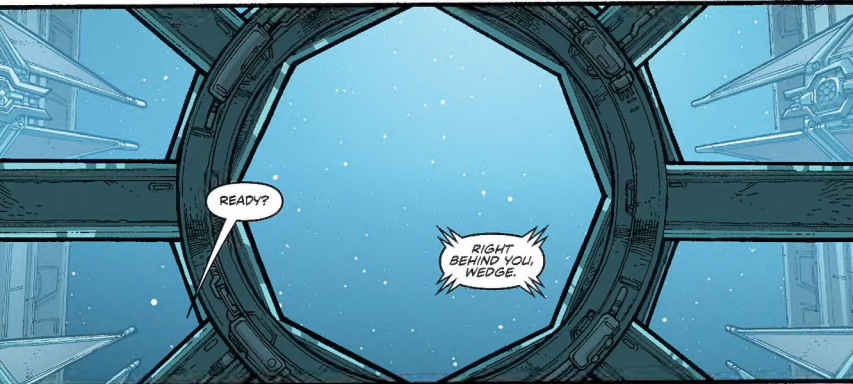
OUR COORDINATES! WE'RE AT THE FLEET!

WELL, THIS IS IT, LUKE. REMEMBER WHAT I'VE BEEN TEACHING YOU --



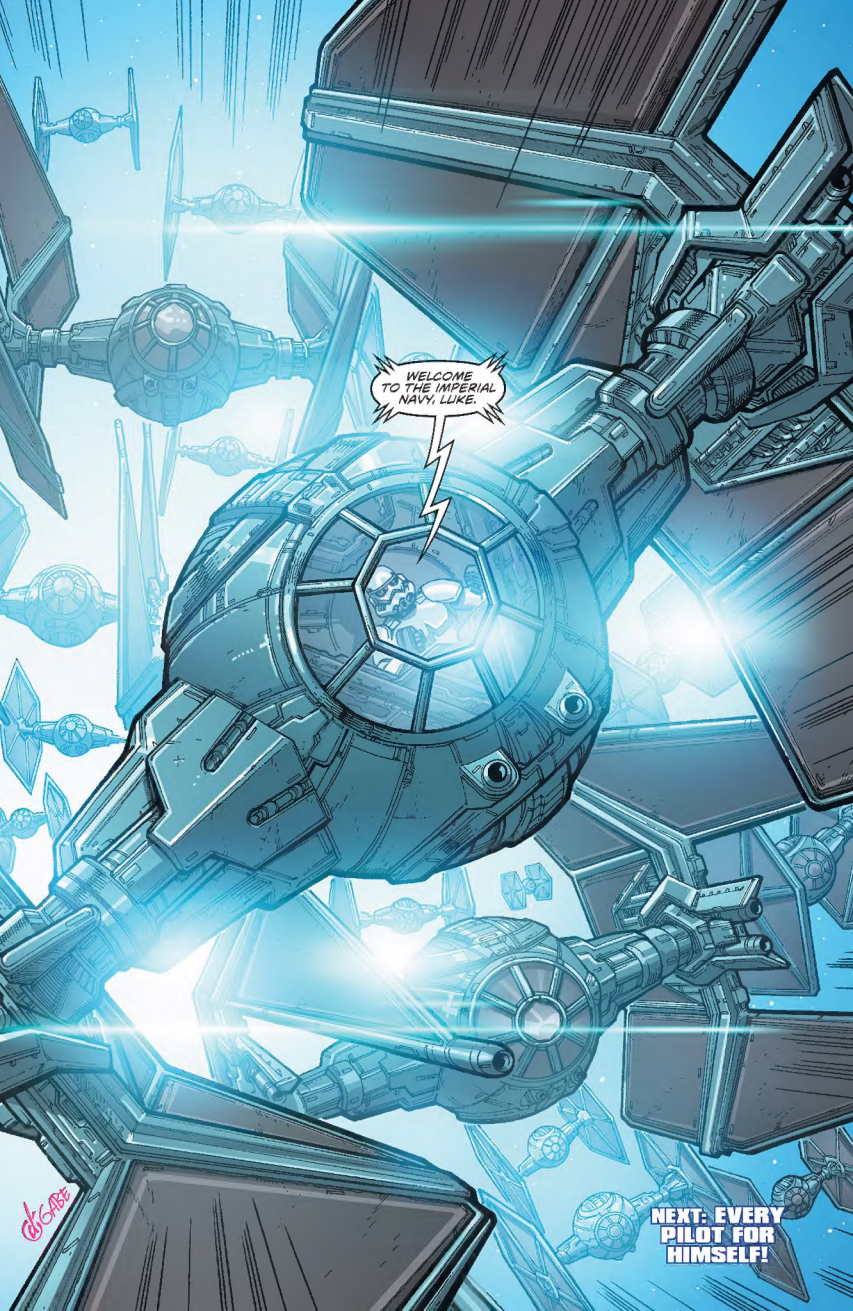
-- NOTHING FANCY. THESE THINGS ARE DESIGNED TO BE SIMPLE TO FLY, BUT THE DYNAMICS ARE NOTHING LIKE THE X-WING.

TAKE IT SLOW. WE NEED TO BLEND IN.



READY?

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, WEDGE.



WELCOME
TO THE IMPERIAL
NAVY, LUKE.

**NEXT: EVERY
PILOT FOR
HIMSELF!**

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STAR WARS

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C/O DARK HORSE COMICS
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MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

STARWARS@DARKHORSE.COM
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A lot of interesting developments occurred in issue #7, but my favorite scene was Luke's return to Tatooine. It was nice that Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru got a decent burial, although what I found even more touching was Luke's realization that there was no home to go back to. It's true that he basically wanted nothing more than to leave home and see the galaxy; however, I'm certain that he would've preferred different circumstances than the slaughter of the only family he knew. It's strange, but before this scene I did not realize how very similar Luke's and Leia's situations are. As Leia points out, they've both lost everything. It's no surprise that these two are driven and willing to give every ounce of strength they have in the struggle against the Empire. And it speaks to their character that it's not just about getting revenge, but about building something greater for all the beings in the galaxy.

Ryan Kelly did great work filling in for Carlos D'Anda. It's good to see that this book remains in capable artistic hands.

Lastly, in the letters page it was asked what we think about variant covers. Here you have it: When I started buying comics in Germany, variants were unheard of. I got hooked on US comics with *Dark Empire* (yes, it's all Dark Horse's fault) and quickly found myself collecting a bunch of books from different publishers. There weren't many variants at the time, but when I could, I got them (even though it was

hard to find them in Germany prior to the rise of the Internet).

In the last couple of years, I gradually gave up. If I picked up all the variants to the books I would've usually bought, I would have to spend hundreds of dollars each and every month. In addition, I would have to sit for countless hours in front of the computer trying to hunt the rare variants down. What a colossal waste of time and money.

I didn't have a problem with the occasional variant cover. Maybe it even made sense for a new issue one or a special event. But if *every* issue from *every* book has one or even multiple variants, how is that special? Back in the day, you could just pick up a new series, and all you had to invest was the cover price. That was it. Now, it's basically *impossible* to find a new book that doesn't ship with countless incentives to somehow get retailers to buy copies. Well, I guess that happens when an entire industry sends out the signal that any book that doesn't ship with a dozen or so covers isn't *big* or worthy of attention. Apparently forgotten is the fact that it is the *readers* who will eventually decide the success or failure of a series—no amount of variants is going to change that.

Maybe I would understand it if there actually was a market for these books. But buying variants is like burning money. Once I spend my hard-earned cash on these covers, there's no way to get it back in most cases. I know; I've tried.

It took me a good long while, but last month I dropped the last two books I bought from Marvel. I only buy a single DC book these days. That leaves most of Dark Horse's *Star Wars* line and one lonely book from Image. Admittedly, the variant covers are not the only reason for my lack of enthusiasm for this hobby that I held dear for so long. There are the continued relaunches (*Avengers* has been around for fifty years, and the highest number they got to is below twenty. It's absurd—and sad). Then there's the lack of storytelling quality and the often average, at best, artwork in many of the books I read (you may proudly exclude your *Star Wars* books from that, which seem to stubbornly hold on to their high quality). But the variants were the deciding factor. I can spend three or four dollars on a book that isn't great, but I *can't* spend hundreds of dollars on low-quality books that I would much rather rip to pieces than read.

If someone had told me a few years ago that I would get to the point where I was nearly done with comics, I would've shaken my head and explained to that person in great detail why that was simply impossible. But it wasn't, and I would've been wrong.

I'm sorry that this letter got so long. I hope you don't see this as a complaint letter. I'm not trying to complain, just explaining my view on the matter. The variants have really taken the fun out of collecting comics for me, and

I'm sure I'm not the only one (there's my brother; for example, who I lured into comics all those years ago. He was a hardcore DC fan, and now he regrets that he didn't quit comics when the New 52 launched).

I'll stick around for *Star Wars* for as long as Dark Horse has the license (although I didn't pre-order the series adapting George Lucas's original script because the first issue will have at least four covers). I guess that's only fitting, since it all started with *Dark Empire* for me. And when something cool, like *Elfquest: The Final Quest* (I've waited so long for that!), comes along, I'll certainly be there.

Lars Meyer
Germany

Well, I asked, didn't I? Lars, the thing to remember is you don't have to buy any of the variant cover editions. I'm not a big fan of the variants myself—preferring to have readers rather than collectors—but as long as the readers don't feel like they're forced to buy them (and they shouldn't), I can live with them. Story first, I always say, and as beautiful as some covers may be, they aren't really part of the story. They're the tease to get readers to pick up the issue.

A word of advice: don't miss The Star Wars because you don't want to purchase all of the covers.

I used to love *Star Wars*. I'm a thirty-something who grew up on this stuff. The prequels managed to erode my interest in it as a property over the last decade. Then one of my favorite writers, Brian Wood, comes along and revitalizes a dormant flame of passion for the material, and offers something of substance as well as entertainment value.

Wood is breathing life and assigning layers onto these characters in a way that only the best novels have. The art by Ryan and company is bright and cinematic. I can hear the roar of TIE fighters and hear John Williams's score panel to panel. Vader is showing curious displays of compassion, the Emperor proves to be a bigger jerk than we thought, Leia shows inspiring moxie, and everyone else just seems spot on. I am in this for the long haul, and thank you!

Bradley J. Timm

Welcome home, Bradley.

One of my favorite moments [in issue #7] was when Luke convinced Leia that he and Wedge can successfully enter Colonel Bircher's Imperial Star Destroyer and find the traitor from within. Ryan Kelly's artwork, as always, is gorgeous. If there is any way he could become the regular artist (or fill-in for Carlos D'Anda), you would get no complaints from me.

Okay, now my questions:

1) How did Birra Seah's Force sensitivity elude the Emperor, but not Darth Vader?

2) Where in the two months after the Battle of Yavin was there time for the Empire to plant a traitor within the Alliance?

3) How would the Empire even know where to place this traitor if they can't find the Rebels?

Outside of those questions, I'm really enjoying this series. The dialogue is very well done (it sounds just like the characters in the films), and the dogfights are superb (did Brian Wood research this?). Also, the cover to this issue by Rodolfo Migliari is absolutely stunning. Can he be the regular cover artist from

now on? While not perfect (and I'm fully aware that I may be a little picky in some respects), this is still a fun and exciting title and I'm very happy you decided to publish it. I look forward to seeing where it goes.

Nick Zaromatidis

Sorry that I had to cut some of your questions due to space limitations, Nick. Trust me, though, you'll have your questions answered in upcoming issues.

1) The ways of the Force are mysterious. Also, I've never seen it demonstrated in the movies that every Force sensitive is immediately recognized as such by every other Force sensitive. And the Emperor had Birra's unexpected promotion on his mind.

2) Well, you'll see the answer in the next issue. I can't answer this without giving away a surprise.

3) See the previous answer. I hope the suspense keeps you reading.

See you all back here in thirty days!

Randy Stradley
editor

NEXT ISSUE:
SPACE BATTLE IN SPACE!
STAR WARS #11

